

AUTUMN FASHIONS FOR 1863.

The blustering winds of a most uncompromising equinoctial storm bore away on their noisy wings whatever pleasant fiction of Summer's continuance a soft September permitted. Autumn is fairly inaugurated, and seaside loungers and country lovers have flown from their cottage perches to seek their warmer and cozier Winter nests. Consequently all womanly nudes at once to the consideration of needed change of apparel and crimineum through the marts of fashion, alike excited and astir with the desire to be "off with their old loves" of gossamer and ravenous draperies, and "on with the new" of gayer, brighter, Autumn colors. One shivers at the bare glimpse of the thin, transparent tissues that formed their dog-day delights; with the dogs they have had their day, and like a parrot sink into graceful repose, giving place to the season's ordained severities: brocading moiré, crinkling silks, and the soft thickness of Winter's weaves.

Despite all the outward pluses of our nation's present struggle, that would seem likely to banish gaiety and fashion, or at least to count solurity and moderation, the signs of the times declare boldly that there shall be no lenient leanness to follow its past giddy exultation of extravagance, and the fashionable world waits on gaily festering though the skeleton of war sits grimly at their Banquet board of plenty.

Our importers' stock has seldom been richer in variety, or in more demand; retail dry goods in their every modification are eagerly sought for; the Magazines and Mode are attended like the court where peerless beauty reigns, and the modistes are audacious in their multifarious designs that demand an unparalleled reeklessness of cut and display. In the midst of it all, however, the lady of taste who respects her individuality too much to let herself unapologetically to La Mode—at once the most arbitrary as well as capricious of depots—can discern sufficient availabilities suited to herself to be ever altered harmoniously. The present styles are legion indeed, offering a kaleidoscopic variety, a new and dazzling arrangement for every chance who glances into the "Glass of Fashion."

There was a time when every hue had its appropriate place in the department of dress, when soft gentle shades—apple green, pale blue, rose pink, blue, and corn color were consecrated to the advent of Spring. These paled, as they were, beneath the ardor of the Summer solstice, and white, with shadowy contrasts reigned until the Fall summoned the whole class of brilliant dyes, and the sidewalk seemed like a portico of tulips gleaming with orange and purple, saffron and gold, and all the flaming thots of an Autumn sunset. Winter claimed the darker, richer crimson and reds that warmed up the necessary darkness of Winter wear. Magazines issue change their colors. November, August and October are not deemed incongruous, and in every month "moths year only wear!"

The rage for neutral tints and the contrast of most precious and brilliant colors is decided. Thus we find many of the handsome silks at midriffs in the various shades of cream, fawn, sand, *à la Egypte*, hazel gray, and the entire grave sisterhood of ashen and sober tints. Soft-colored silks, as being more susceptible of ornamentation, are still in much demand, and are to be found of rare quality as to richness and peculiar variety of shade. Some handsome silks are in white stripes of contrasting shades of the same colors, bespangled with bouquets studded from the darker to white and so exquisitely disposed as to present the appearance of fine raised embroidery. Upon a plain ground these are as effective, if not so new. Chintz silks are also chosen of these dead-colors, as most appropriate to the season.

It must not be supposed that these quiet fashions imply a Quakerish simplicity of toilette. The contrary is the case. The dress material often would appear selected singly as the background upon which artistic effects are to be wrought, and gorgeous, even fantastic fabrications to be reared. Flowers form the favorite garniture for evening dresses, which are regal and airy for all not wearing collars, whose Vandyke points shall crowd out the delicate strips now observable about the necks of our beauty-dowered damsels. As lines come from the kiss of whiteness about the wrist spring at once like the dove of those boots of an eighth of a yard in width, the colors seek a like full-blown aspect. At present this resulted in turned down points in front, as applied to steel buttons, it is destined to be short lived, having neither grace, style nor fitness to recommend it. We had the pleasure of riding down town in a Fifth-avenue stage the other day with a lady whose ear colored dress and mantle were profusely marked with these leather strips, each turning of which was studded with bright buttons like the heads of nails. The impression to be made upon the uninitiated mind was that the wearer was on route for a masquerade in the highly respectable and military character of a pertinacity.

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We are happy in being able to state that old Sol was pleased to be propitious this year in respect to the opening day, and favored the chess. Thursday with one of those perfect days that two feeting feet to predominant activity, and won them from shady bower to the sunshines of Broadway. Each modiste had something rare and striking with which to beguile the easily captivated minds of the beholders. All women are seen upon the top of bonnets, and readily emulated by their charms. Surely the floating phantasmagoria of panoramic bonnets that must people the dreams of a New-Yorker after an "Opening Day" campaign must follow any effort toward painting in words the fanciful creations and modifications of Americanized French fancy, as depicted in head gear. The bonnets of the Autumn and Winter of 1862-64 bid fair to sustain the reputation of that article in years gone by for lack of adaptation to the purpose designed. In shape it is a shield-like, mandorla, hat, parrot, gloves, boats, even the embroidery of the moncher being slanted with an eye to the most rigid horizon of color and design. Alpacas, muslin, chintz, or platin, which just present are the materials for these walking suits, will soon be superseded by peacock cloths, striped, dotted, or plaided in an undiscernible way, the among the desirable goods, and entirely take the place of silks for ordinary out-of-door wear, and creature suitable in their suggestion of comfortable warmth. They are found in an increased variety of shades and some few novelties.

Some change dress patterns of poplin were imported by a popular house in this city at a cost half hundred dollars, one of rich violet blue, had medallions of black velvet and lined round the edge of the skirt at intervals; upon these were wrought posies of violet silk needles, white and defined by white silk thread, giving a raised appearance. The intermediate spaces and above and below the medallions was filled by a graceful floral pattern in black, near a quarter of a yard wide, a similar design for the bodice and bodice completed one of the hand-sewn demonstration of military enthusiasm; they are much trimmed, and the materials employed intrinsic beauty. Feathers are the favorite decoration, both inside and out, and many new varieties and combinations are shown.

White shawls are by no means discarded as out-door wraps; they are not pronounced too modish garment for full promenade dresses. Beside the circular manner fashioned like material with the dress worn, there will be many desirable mantles and cloaks of cloth and velvet suitable to be worn with materials unfit for gait. The style of all, whether circles or the English pellet, is much shorter, so as to fully display the cloth decoys, one of the shirt and the ornate pelisse pattern. A new style of mantles in black cloth has one end thrown over and looped upon the left shoulder. The smart cloak fails to step from its place as a carriage wrap, or an evening bit of coquettish gayety, to take rank among the clouds of the *troupe*.

"Red Riding Hoods" have become a necessity to children, a desirability for youth and a possibility for even young ladies. For the two first classes it is well suited, but should be restricted to gas-light wear over the shoulders of maturity. Dark blue mantles of the jersey-cloth shade, studded with white, are also worn; and one we saw, made of a rich shade of grass green, was finished with a bias of red silk stitched with white, the capuchin hood ornamented with brilliant red silk tassels, the whole very French, but irresistibly suggestive of a pal's parrot's plumage. Many executive opera wraps are made of white Cashmere or heavy silk trimmed richly with black lace.

We had opined that the female mind being hopelessly "joined to its id—idiotism—the best thing to be done was to let it alone." But no sooner had the eye and taste been educated not only to toleration but admiration of the pretentious circumference than sickle Fresh, in the person of her most conspicuous majesty the Imperial Eugenie, places a ban upon his longer use. *Le Monde* sees the water no longer recognizes any umbrella that is not a stick. The jacket is a veritable *à la japonaise* with the divers styles of fanciful embroidery particularly resemble one to the temporary bandanna of the Venus-bestowed girdle. Sashes are still found in evening dress, and as a part of children's and young ladies' toilettes. They bespeak youth as a necessary accompaniment to their floating gayety.

Sleeves have taken many a reef in their whims expansive sails; they now appear fitted to the use for which they are designed. The coat-sleeve model is the *couper et échapper*, not closely fitting, but loosely following the bend of the arm.

For those robes, rejoicing in that measure which is just now a mode, these sleeves are plump and becoming; but, for stylized leanness, we recommend some of the leg-of-mutton variety closed at the waist, a style never quite "out." If the small sleeve

be adopted, it should be accompanied by the mitigating epaulette which imparts breadth and style to the figure. For thick, heavy materials, the sleeve is invariably tight and worn with deep linen cuffs. Skirts are made full and long for home dress; heavy moirés are girded, and the slope made by slanting at the bottom instead of the top. Long, wavy scallops at the edge are a novel, and for morning robes, a desirable style.

Trimmings, having many seasons past reached their climax of lavishness, "the force of fancy can no longer go," and therefore, it deportes itself at its glibly altitude, playing its pranks with ribbons, velvets, braids, guimpes, passementerie, buttons, lace, fringe, and suchlike, to the distraction of all sober-thoughted women drapers and "can with the new" of gayer, brighter, Autumn colors. One shivers at the bare glimpse of the thin, transparent tissues that formed their dog-day delights, with the dogs they have had their day, and like a parrot sink into graceful repose, giving place to the season's ordained severities: brocading moiré, crinkling silks, and the soft thickness of Winter's weaves.

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Velvet ribbons in bold designs, in conjunction with draped or gathered ribbons, undulate about many a slender circumference, placed in serpentine waves, set in loops or forming bouquets of leaves in the center of each breadth. Individual taste is allowed its widest exercise and professional skill taxed to the utmost in creating and executing new and startling vagaries. A revival of the once popular double skin has reintroduced fringes; those of chenille are especially graceful, and for evening dress these formed of feathers, or like a bird's wing mounted on a white silk bird head, are airy, stylish, and becoming.

An out-and-out demand for the use of leather trimmings as its exponent, strips of this material either plain, embossed or stamped in some ornate device, from the kiss of whiteness about the wrist spring at once like the dove of those boots of an eighth of a yard in width, the colors seek a like full-blown aspect. At present this resulted in turned down points in front, as applied to steel buttons, it is destined to be short lived, having neither grace, style nor fitness to recommend it. They import an antique style to some figures, according well with the high stand-alone qualities of the fashionable modes, and seem a proper adjunct to find dinner or reception dress in these days of proude expenditure and the fondness of display.

As for decorations, no lady in "society" dares appear in public without a loyal people. Through the fiery trials of thirty months a large number have been willing to risk all for the Union cause, and multitudes of them have not only periled all, but lost all but their lives in this cause, or in consequence of their identification with it. No accumulation of wrong and calamity has been sufficient to sway them for a moment from their devotion to it and to their Administration. In every step you have taken to subdue the Rebellion, we have brought with us a unanimous and undying faith in your patriotism, generosity and integrity, and an unquestioning belief in your goodness to do whatever is right in regard to our State, wherever you are fully concerning its affairs.

We represent, as we verily believe, a large majority of the people of Missouri, and a still larger majority of its loyal voters.

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